

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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“Horns and Other Warning Devices”

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 46.37.380 (1) states, “Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device may emit an unreasonable loud or harsh sound or whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation give audible warning with his horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.”

A warning device on a vehicle may not be a siren, whistle, or bell. A theft alarm signal device may use a whistle or bell, providing it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning device. A siren is permitted on law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, and vehicles with authorized emergency vehicle permits.

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